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PRESS RELEASE

“U.S. Department of State ATA Equipment Grant Handover to Dhaka Metropolitan Police”

February 18, Dhaka - The U.S. Government, through the U.S. Department of State’s Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA) Program and the U.S. Embassy’s Regional Security Office, concluded an equipment grant handover ceremony on Monday, February 18, 2013.

Under the ATA Program, the U.S. Government has provided the Dhaka Metropolitan Police with a grant valued at more than 190,000 U.S. dollars. The grant included an Explosive Incidents Countermeasures class course which was presented to the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) for the use of the Bomb Disposal Units (BDU) of DMP and the Chittagong Metropolitan Police. Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Benazir Ahmed, U.S. Embassy Dhaka Regional Security Officer Bernard Nixon, other officials of the Bangladesh Police, and the BDU team members were present at the handover ceremony.

U.S. Embassy Dhaka Regional Security Officer Bernard Nixon said, “The Antiterrorism Assistance Program equipment grants are just one of many avenues we can use to fight terrorism together and protect the interests of Bangladesh, the United States and the entire region. The ATA Program will also give provide grant two high standard bomb explosive detectors to DMP very soon and will train at least 60 police officials to how to use those in their use.”

The U.S. Embassy, in partnership with the Government of Bangladesh, plans to offer the equipment grants and the training program several more times throughout the year.

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